

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group (GCG), New York 16 May 2012

Present: Joseph Ole Simel (African member), Saoudata Aboubacrine (African member), Hjalmar Dahl (Arctic member), Florina Lopez (Latin American member), David Lee (Pacific member), ? (Youth caucus member), Sylvia Escarcega (GIWC rapporteur), John Henriksen (Sami Parliament of Norway representative and Indigenous facilitator), Tracey Castro Whare (Secretariat of the GCG), Inger Johanne Mudenia (Sami Parliament of Norway representative and member of the drafting group).

Chair: Hjalmar

Rapporteur: Tracey

Apologies: Kenneth. Others have left NY already.

Agenda

Agenda item 1

Update from the funding committee

The members of the committee are John, Joan, Kenneth, Jocelyn and Tracey, Tracey having been co-opted onto the committee.

John reported that the committee had a couple of meetings to finalize the budget and strategies. The budget includes funds for meetings of the GCG, communications, Indigenous regional prep meetings and the global preparatory conference. The final figure is \$4 million USD.

John also reported that the committee had met with Antonella Cordon of IFAD, who indicated that IFAD are preparing allocations for Indigenous projects for next year. They are prepared to set aside \$350,000 for the Indigenous preparatory process of the WCIP. Those funds will not be available before May; therefore they will be too late for regional processes. That money could be used for Indigenous participation in Alta for Latin America, Africa and Asia. Since meeting with the committee, Antonella has informed John that unfortunately her boss was not that keen on the idea of supporting the Indigenous preparatory process.

Tracey met with Gleb Taygorodetsky of the UNU and Phrang Roy of Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity & Food Sovereignty. They were interested in supporting the process by completing research mandated by the GCG. As this is not what the GCG had anticipated in terms of support, it is not clear what support the UNU could now offer the Indigenous preparatory process.

John then stated that he had also met with Gleb after Gleb had met with Tracey. As the UNU wants to support the Indigenous preparatory process, they are prepared to offer technical assistance for the Alta meeting. If the GCG agree with that, the UNU would raise funds for their own work and the Sami Parliament could enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNU. There was agreement that this proposal should be pursued. Tracey asked whether the UNU could support technical assistance to all regions. John said he would follow that up with them.

Hjalmar advised that the ICC has a meeting with the Danish Foreign Ministry on 30 May, where the WCIP will be discussed. Hopefully Hjalmar get some feedback from the Minister who has indicated he is committed to the WCIP. Hjalmar is also trying to set up a meeting with the Greenland Premier.

John reported that the President of the Sami Parliament of Norway attended a meeting in Norway on 11 May with the Norwegian Foreign Minister and government officials. The President of the Sami Parliament was able to speak about the WCIP. John had also prepared a memo for the Minister's consideration.

Kenneth is currently in San Francisco attending a meeting of funders for Indigenous Peoples. The Sami Parliament of Norway and IWGIA funded the trip.

Tracey reported on a donor breakfast which she, Saoudata, Joseph, Tarcila and Joan attended. It was organized by the First Peoples Worldwide, an Indigenous NGO who provides small grants to community projects and who also works with larger based philanthropic organizations in the States. Whilst the donors who were present were not focused on providing grants for international projects, First Peoples Worldwide agreed to contact their donors to see if there was any interest in supporting the Indigenous preparatory processes of the WCIP. Tracey will follow up with them in a few weeks.

John noted that each region should undertake fundraising in their respective regions as well.

Dave advised that he will set up meetings in Australia when he gets home and get them to chase up NZAid.

John posed the question of where funds should go, to the UN or to an NGO. His preference was that funds go to an NGO like IWGIA; IWGIA could distribute the funds as it would be relatively quick compared to trying to work within the UN bureaucracy. Alternatively if funding could be sourced regionally, then funds can go to regional NGO's.

Dave noted that his organization holds any funds received on investment which could generate further income.

Hjalmar noted that any funding would need to be received and managed by a legally recognized organization.

Saoudata reported that she had met with officials from Congo and Burkina Faso. They were interested in supporting the Indigenous preparatory process. Their contributions could go towards accommodation and travel grants for Indigenous Africans to attend their regional prep meeting. Saoudata will meet again with Denmark and Switzerland to see if they can support the African indigenous preparatory process.

Dave asked whether the Holy Sea had been approached. Joseph inquired about the Ford Foundation. John responded by saying that Myrna of the PF had agreed to set a meeting up with the Ford Foundation.

It was also noted that if the Fundraising Committee was successful in raising more funds than were required, then extra funds could be put towards the Alta meeting.

Agenda item 2

Update from the communications group

The communications group is Kenneth, Jocelyn, Ghazali, and Joan. They held a very productive meeting. The minutes of that meeting were noted.

Agenda item 3

Updates on any other matters – from regions or caucuses, negotiations on the GA modalities resolution, State lobbying

Dave advised that the Pacific members of the GCG should be finalized tomorrow. There were nine nominations for the three positions. Discussions have been held regarding the location of the Pacific prep com. Australia or Aotearoa are favoured. Dave will meet with some venues in Sydney next week and identify a location within the next month. His preference is to hold it in Aotearoa because the exchange rate is better.

Tracey advised that the Indigenous women's' caucus had requested information about the GCG including its Terms of Reference to help them in their deliberations in choosing their representatives for the GCG.

Joseph advised that he had held discussions with IFAD to hold an African prep meeting back to back with an IFAD meeting in October. The first two days would be IFAD consultations with Indigenous Peoples in Africa, and the second two days the prep meeting. Twenty people from the IFAD meeting could therefore participate in the prep meeting.

Joseph advised that the South African government is also interested in hosting a smaller meeting in July. This meeting would include a small number of governments and Indigenous peoples. He noted that Kenya, Tanzania or South Africa would be the best venues.

Saoudata commented that South Africa has visa difficulties for people from other African countries. Her preference is Kenya.

GA modalities

John noted that the GCG had made an intervention on the agenda item of the PF for the WCIP. John has used that intervention as his lobbying tool with members of the PF. He has met with them twice and worked bilaterally with some members of the PF like Myrna who is the rapporteur for the agenda item on the WCIP. John noted that the advanced version of the PF recommendations is looking good; it is using the GCG's intervention as the basis. John advised that there was a problem two days ago where there was an attempt to try and join the PF with the WCIP. This would not be helpful as it would downplay the importance of the WCIP. John was able to work on that issue with Tracey. John then summarised the draft recommendations.

Some States have been lobbying the PF members so that only indigenous NGO's in compliance with the UN rules of procedure will be able to participate in the WCIP. The PF agreed that was not the way to proceed.

John explained that the recommendation contained 5 paragraphs in relation to participation in line with what the GCG recommended. They are using articles 18, 19 and 41 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the basis.

The paragraphs on modalities are as proposed by the GCG intervention. Some members were pushing for May and others for another location. There is concern that security in September will be an issue.

There is reference in the recommendations to regional processes and some PF members wanted to have joint regional processes. John argued that Indigenous peoples need space first before discussing matters with States. Regions could therefore choose to have a two stage process.

Joseph asked what joint prep meetings looked like and who is responsible for organizing them.

John clarified by reading the paragraph which encouraged States to organize meetings regionally. Any joint prep meetings would be held after Alta.

Joseph noted that there are Visa issues in coming to the USA. He noted that a dialogue with the USA State rep to discuss this issue needs to be done today.

Dave noted that the GCG will need to lobby States where Indigenous peoples have problems with leaving their country, e.g. West Papua. He noted that at some stage we would need to discuss this and flag it with such States.

Tracey thanked John for his work on the PF recommendations.

Agenda item 4

Reflections on the side event and agenda item on WCIP

Hjalmar noted that both events had gone well and they were positive despite reservations by Russia and the USA. In relation to the side event, he noted there were not many questions and people were thankful for our efforts. Hjalmar noted he was satisfied with the outcomes.

John also noted that he was pleased with both events. The side event was very informative, there were good ideas and questions expressed and it went smoothly. Delegations were positive but it could be read between the lines that some States have issues. There was however broad agreement for the principles of full and effective participation which forms a good basis to find arrangements for Indigenous peoples participation. John also noted that the focus on an action orientated outcome was also helpful. In relation to the Indigenous interventions, John noted that there was one that was confusing from the North American caucus. This caused some State delegations to think that what is happening is not a big issue. John noted that as soon as all reps on the GCG are sorted, such concerns as were raised in that intervention will be addressed.

The global Indigenous caucus is meeting tomorrow at 0830 in conference room 1. John noted that there might be some misunderstandings out there and that it was strange that they said they had no information about the WCIP.

Sylvia commented that there were communication problems as there was no mechanism to communicate. She noted that the GCG will set up a webpage so that anyone can access information. She asked how communication could happen until that is established.

Dave responded by noting that each member of the GCG is responsible for communicating to their regions and caucuses. He suggested that people join region lists not just caucus lists.

Tracey suggested that the GCG when attending UN meetings always hold a side event to disseminate information and allow face to face meetings between Indigenous peoples and the GCG.

Agenda item 5

Request from Indigenous Persons with disabilities to join the GCG

John advised that he had been approached by the coordinator of the group of Indigenous Persons with disabilities. He had tried to schedule a meeting with them but they have left NY. He asked how we can include

them taking into account the financial constraints we have. He noted that we can encourage regions to link up with them in order to take into account their concerns. If there are funds, he saw no reason not to include them.

Hjalmar noted that all regions have smaller caucuses, and that all members of the GCG should have direct contact with other NGO's in their regions. He noted the difficulty in increasing the budget and that the GCG is open to observers to attend meetings.

Joseph noted that it might be possible to raise more financial resources and that the group had a valid request and should be included.

Sylvia questioned whether GCG meetings are open to observers to which an affirmative answer was given.

Another question raised was whether the group of Indigenous Persons with disabilities have their own funds to participate.

Agenda item 6

Other matters – update on members

Tracey noted that the membership of the GCG is ongoing and that updated lists would be provided periodically.

Dave noted that the Commonwealth Secretariat have funds available. They are based in London. Dave said he would try and approach them, they represent 54 countries.

John noted that the GCG would not meet at the EMRIP. Dave, John and Saoudata confirmed they were going. Tracey and Joseph are unsure. John noted that there is funding available from the Sami Parliament for one more GCG meeting this year. He suggested that those who could go to EMRIP with their own funds should go. The WCIP is on the agenda of the EMRIP and will be held on the Monday from 1500 – 1800.

Tracey relayed that Joan had indicated that her organization would be prepared to host the next GCG in Chiang Mai, Thailand. It was agreed that the next meeting should be held after the adoption of the GA resolution and that from then on a road map could be created.

John noted that Myrna had indicated that all the members of the GCG would be invited to Guatemala on 18 – 20 December to mark the change of time and to discuss Indigenous issues. The event is called "Baktun".

Joseph noted that the Rio + was in June and that Indigenous peoples had organized activities from 17 -21 June. Joji Carino is the focal point. Joseph noted that this is an opportunity for dialogue and asked whether any GCG members were attending. Florina and Joseph will attend. John may attend.

Joseph asked who the GCG can approach for further funds.

John responded that he is working with the Nordic countries bilaterally. He noted that the PF member from Finland has good connections to donors.

Tracey noted she had contacts in Aotearoa but was unsure if they have any funds.

Meeting adjourned.